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imagery analysis report

Modification of the Air Intake Duct Soviet Alst-Class LCUA (S)

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MODIFICATION OF THE AIR INTAKE DUCT SOVIET AIST-CLASS LCUA (S)

1. (S/D) The air intake duct on the Soviet Aist-class Air Cushion Utility Landing Craft (LCUA) has been modified. This modification may have been required because of a water ingestion problem. It is probable that this modification will be made on all units.

2. (S/D) At least the first eight and probably the first nine units of the Aist LCUA, which were constructed at Leningrad Boatyard Dekabristov ([REDACTED]), had a standard air intake duct. During the fall of 1979, a unit was modified with what appeared to be the prototype of a new air intake duct (Figure 1). Reports¹ indicate that an operational Aist LCUA may have returned to the facility during the fall of 1979. Lack of overhead imagery during the fall of 1979 prevents a determination of whether the unit modified was this reported returnee or a newly constructed unit. This modified Aist was observed at Tallinn Naval Base and Shipyard Becker ([REDACTED]) from late January through early May 1980. By [REDACTED] this unit had arrived at Baltiysk Naval Base (BF [REDACTED]), where it remains.

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3. (TSR) The tenth unit of the Aist LCUA also has the modified air intake duct (Figure 2). This duct measures [REDACTED] Unit 10, which was rolled out of the construction hall between [REDACTED] departed Leningrad in September and arrived at Sevastopol Naval Support Facility [REDACTED] Based on previous practices, it will probably deploy to Ozero Dunuzlav Amphibious/Naval Infantry Base [REDACTED]

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DOCUMENT

1. USDAO, Leningrad Maritime/Shipbuilding Observations 1980 (CONFIDENTIAL, [REDACTED])

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [REDACTED] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [REDACTED]

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